

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 USIA-15 RSR-01

/088 W

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R 151055Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 643

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 6596

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: 1973 AFRICAN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE 158920; (B) LAGOS 6421 (C) STATE A-3728

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE AND UN-REALISTIC TO IMPOSE AUGUST 24 DEADLINE ON FMG COMMIT-MENT. HAVING EXTENDED INVITATION UNEQUIVOCALLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS INCUMBENT ON US AND IN US INTEREST TO KEEP PLACE OPEN FOR NIGERIA. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAD OPPORTUNITY AT AUGUST 14 SOCIAL EVENT FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH OBE, ACTING DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AMERICAN DI-VISION.

3. OBE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT ASSURE NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION MEA HAD AGAIN CIRCULARIZED PERTINENT MINISTRIES, AND WOULD BE COORDINATING REPLY TO EMBASSY. HE COULD NOT PREDICT REPLY BUT SIAD MEA FAVORED PAR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TICIPATION AND HE HOPED FOR THE BEST.

4. WE URGED AGAIN IMPORTANCE NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND ASKED THAT MEA DO ITS BEST TO EXPEDITE REPLY IN VIEW PRESSING USG PLANNING NEEDS. OBE SAID THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE REPLY BY END AUGUST.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY EXTENDED THIS INVITATION TO FMG WITHOUT DEADLINE, AND ON GROUNDS USG WELCOMED PARTICIPATION OF FMG FOR ITS OWN (AND US) SAKE. IN FMG SCHEME OF THINGS INTRODUCTION NOW OF AUGUST 24 DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 24 EVENT WOULD PROBABLY SEEM ARBITRARY AND IN LIGHT OBE'S LATEST REMARKS IT IS UNREALISTIC. NOR WOULD IT HELP TO SUGGEST NOW USG NEED TO ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE PARTICIPATION. FMG WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY INFER THAT US INVITATION EXTENDED NOT SO MUCH FOR SAKE OF US/NIGERIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT AS TO SERVE USG PROGRAMMING PURPOSES. IF PROBLEM IS TO INSURE TARGET NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (AND WE UNDERSTAND CAMEROON ALREADY ADDED TO ORIGINAL FOUR), WE WONDER IF IT COULD NOT BE MET BY INVITING ANOTHER PARTICIPANT NOW AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE NIGERIAN RESPONSE. SO FAR AS FMG CONCERNED, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO EXPEDITE FMG REPLY, BUT HAVING EXTENDED INVITATION UNCONDITIONALLY, IT IS INCUMBENT, WE BELIEVE, ON USG AND IN OUR INTEREST TO KEEP PLACE OPEN FOR NIGERIA IF IT CHOOSES TO ACCEPT.

6. ACTION: APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE SOONEST. WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO US IN EXPEDITING FMG DECISION IF WE COULD HAVE DETAILS OF SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES NOW PLANNED.
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